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Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award, 2018

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. The report, which covers the Award for 2018, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

* A/73/150.

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Report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award on the United Nations Population Award 2018

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selects the laureates for the Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund acts as Secretary of the Committee and submits to the General Assembly an annual report on the Award and its trust fund.

3. In its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award, so that an individual and an institution could share the award.

4. In its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the Population Award accordingly.

5. The current elected members of the Committee (until 31 December 2018) are Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, the Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Paraguay and Poland.

6. During its organizational meeting, held on 26 February 2018, the Committee re-elected Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee (Ghana) as Chair for 2018.

II. United Nations Population Award, 2018

7. The Committee received 18 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2018 Award, of which 11 were for the individual category and 7 for the institutional category. On 29 March 2018, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Dr. Sir Prince Ramsey of Antigua and Barbuda in the individual category, and the Guttmacher Institute of the United States of America and Save a Child's Heart of Israel in the institutional category.

A. Individual category

8. The Committee selected Dr. Ramsey in recognition of his outstanding contribution to improving health care for thousands of people in the disadvantaged communities of his twin-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

9. As District Medical Officer, he not only treated thousands of citizens in disadvantaged communities but also served for three decades as a volunteer lecturer for student nurses and midwives at the Antigua Planned Parenthood Association, the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation, the Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance.

10. Dr. Ramsey became a prominent champion of the HIV and AIDS cause, as an expert on the epidemic, as an advocate and as a pioneer in the fight against mother-

to-child transmission of HIV. Due to his life-saving work, the World Health Organization recognized Antigua and Barbuda as one of six Caribbean countries for the achievement of eliminating mother-to-child Transmission of HIV and syphilis in 2017.

B. Institutional category

11. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award, 2018, selected two laureates in the institutional category, namely, the Guttmacher Institute and Save a Child's Heart.

12. The Guttmacher Institute was selected for its achievements as a leading research and policy organization committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States and globally.

13. Within this field, the Institute has focused on issues as diverse as fertility, contraceptive use and services, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, pregnancy outcomes, abortion incidence and safety, as well as maternal and newborn health, HIV and AIDS and men's sexual and reproductive health. In all these areas, the Institute has played a pivotal role in filling a vital niche as a credible source of actionable, high-quality scientific research and as a centre of excellence in translating evidence into policy change.

14. Save a Child's Heart, an Israel-based humanitarian organization, was selected for its work as a world leader in providing life-saving cardiac surgery for children from developing countries, regardless of race, nationality or socioeconomic status. Established in 1995, Save a Child's Heart's goal is to improve the health and welfare of all children, in particular those born with congenital heart disease.

15. While providing life-saving heart surgeries and follow-up care, Save a Child's Heart simultaneously creates centres in developing countries, enabling local physicians trained by Save a Child's Heart to treat patients in their local communities. To date, Save a Child's Heart has saved the lives of 4,400 children from 55 developing countries in Africa, South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

III. Financial matters

16. As of 31 December 2017, the trust fund of the United Nations Population Award had a total balance of $1,739,958.32. Interest income in 2017 was $20,672.45. Expenditures in 2018, including prizes awarded to the three laureates, totalled $87,932.36.